

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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ARE MEN THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE?

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, in his introduction to the epic "The Ten Commandments," Cecil B. DeMille asked the question, "Are men the property of the state, or are they free souls under God?" Congress will authoritatively address this question tomorrow. Will the Federal Government order Americans to purchase products that the government thinks that they should buy and fine or imprison them if they refuse? Will it empower a new health czar to make decisions over the most minute details of every American's health care? Will it set loose 16,000 new IRS agents to enforce its edicts?

This vote transcends any questions of health care. It introduces a proposition that will fundamentally alter the relationship between the Government and the people for all time. I pray that my democratic colleagues, drunk as they may be with power, will consider carefully the implications of the action they are about to take.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, here we are a day away from a very big vote. The bill has been read, the details have been debated, the amendments have been offered, the fights have been fought, the misinformation has been peddled. But now we are left with the facts. We are left with the facts that the bill we are voting on tomorrow will, according to the Congressional Budget Office, reduce the deficit of this Nation by over \$100 billion in the first 10 years of its existence and by over \$1 trillion in the second 10 years of its existence. This bill contains every reasonable and good idea that has been offered by credible health care economists for how to bring down the costs of our health care.

Is there risk? Of course there is risk. This body may choose not to do some of the things it has said it will do.

Some ideas will work. Some will fail. There is risk. But to try to do nothing is the biggest risk of all.

We have spent so much time on the economics and the cost, and now I think, as we reflect on the last day, that we return to the moral question associated with health care reform. At the core of the moral question, to my way of thinking, is the fact that this Nation protects its own, that we look after each other, that we won't let you die.

I need to tell you about my friend, Dave Roberson. He was a good, close friend, and a fellow parishioner at the First Presbyterian Church at Greenwich. A volunteer, an activist, a former NASA engineer, a kind, thoughtful smart man who lost his job at NASA 6 years ago. And with that loss of his job, he lost his health insurance.

Dave had a heart condition. He didn't see a doctor for 6 years. He got no advice. He got no help. And 2 weeks ago, driving home, he lost consciousness for reasons that they believe had to do with his heart condition and drove his car into a wall and was killed. We buried Dave Roberson today, a good, fine man whom we did not stand for, whom the health care system failed. Dave worked his career so that his Nation could explore space. But his Nation, our country, couldn't do what was needed to keep Dave on Earth.

And by the way, Dave is no lone individual. One hundred twenty-three people will die every single day because they don't have adequate health care coverage, 123 Americans every day like Dave Roberson. We don't do this. If our enemies attack, we spend billions to send men, women, and equipment to defend the lives and the values of this Nation. If your house is on fire, we send men, women, and equipment to put out that fire. If you're assaulted, if an intruder enters your home, we don't ask, we send police, equipment, the resources to save your life. But if you get breast cancer, if you have diabetes, if you get leukemia, we don't make that same promise. We might help you if you have a job and can keep that job, if you're not too old, if you're not maybe a woman with a history of domestic violence, we might help you. But we didn't help Dave Roberson. And we don't help the 123 Americans who die every day because we do not live true to the promise that we look out after each other. On this we can do better.

And it's not just the Democrats who think so. It is 250 organizations, including the AARP, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the Catholic Health Association, the Consumers Union, the League of Women Voters, the list goes on and on of organizations who say, we can do better, we can live more true to the values of this Nation.

I hope that each and every one of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle when the vote comes tomorrow will say, we'll send the military. We'll send

the fire. We'll send the police to save your life. And now being true to the values of this Nation, we will save your life if you get sick.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States of America was written by our Founding Fathers to limit the size of government. The Constitution sets limits on what the government can do for us and what the government can do to us.

The people decide what is best for themselves and our country, not the all-seeing eye of the Federal Government. James Monroe said in 1788 at the Virginia convention to ratify the United States Constitution, How prone all human institutions have been to decay, how difficult it has been for mankind in the ages and countries to preserve their dearest rights and best privileges, imperiled as they were by an irresistible fate of tyranny.

Now the tyrannical all-seeing eye of the Federal Government is trying to take care of us. The government doesn't think we know how to take care of ourselves, so it must come in and take care of us. We are to be made subjects incapable of taking care of our own health. Nowhere in the Constitution is the Federal Government given any authority to control the people's health, not one place.

George Washington didn't fight the redcoats so people could be the subjects of the new, oppressive, and untrustworthy Federal bureaucracy. The colonists didn't die in the War of Independence so a health care czar could rule over us.

The government takeover of health care is unconstitutional. And if this bill passes, the Texas attorney general and 30 other State attorneys general are prepared to sue the Federal Government for an exercise of unconstitutional action because this bill is unconstitutional. It forces Americans to buy health insurance against their will. And if people don't buy the insurance, they will face fines or go to jail. And on top of that, it forces people to buy government-approved health insurance. That means the Feds tell people they have to buy the Federal-approved insurance, and it tells them what insurance they must buy. That's not allowed under any stretch of the law or imagination. That is unconstitutional.